

Workforce Investment Board

Minutes

Cornhusker Hotel – Yankee Hill 3
Lincoln, Nebraska
October 23, 2009
9:30 a.m.

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order

The meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board (NWIB) was called to order on October 23, 2009 at approximately 9:40 a.m. by Mr. Gayle McClure, Chair.

Chair Gayle McClure introduced Jennifer Sedlacek and Don Nordell new board members. Each provided their background information.

Chair Gayle McClure recognized Senator Tony Fulton and Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy for their participation at today's meeting

Agenda Item #2 - Roll Call

NWIB members present (31):

Mitch Arnold	Marshall Hill	Bradley Schroeder
Dennis Baack	Catherine D. Lang	Jennifer Sedlacek
Roger Breed	Jim Linderholm	Lt. Governor Rick
Tammie Burns	Dan Mauk	Sheehy
Bruce Cutright	Liz Mazzotta	Becky Stitt
Connie Eichhorn	Gayle McClure	Clyde Tyndall
Mathew Fleischer	Mark McColley	Suzanne Mahel Tyrrell
Michael Geary	Mark Moravec	Pearl Van Zandt
J. Brent Gilbert	Robert Mueller	Kerry Winterer
Mayor Roger Glawatz	Don Nordell	Julie Younkin
John Hilgert	Wayne Sasges	

NWIB members absent (11):

Pepper Aasgaard
Mike Abramson
Richard Baier
Charles Baldwin
Patricia "Sue" Hartwell
Ron Johns
Peter Kotsiopoulos
M.L. Martin
Ken Mass
Michelle Olson
Paulo Reynoso

A quorum was established.

Ex-officio member present (1):
Senator Tony Fulton

Ex-officio member absent (1)
Senator Abbie Cornett

Workforce Development/Nebraska
Department of Labor
John Albin
Lorena Hernandez
Linda Kirk
Vicki Leech
Nancy Leonard
JoAnn McManus
Joan Modrell
Steve Porr
Shannon Ramaeker

Other Guests:
Jan Norlander-Jensen

Agenda Item #3 - Notice of Publication

Nancy Leonard, recorder for the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board, stated that notice of a public meeting was both posted and advertised in accordance with the Public Meetings Law. Notices were marked as exhibits and made part of the formal record of the meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Approval of Minutes

Michael Geary made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board. Pearl Van Zandt seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Agenda Item #5 – Old Business

Compliance Committee Report

Bruce Cutright, Compliance Committee Chair, summarized the minutes of the Compliance Committee meeting that was held on August 18, 2009. (Minutes had been distributed to the Board.) He stated the Committee reviewed several items such as Performance, State Incentive Policy and the Customer Satisfaction Report. The Preliminary Performance for 4th Quarter 2008 did show that Greater Nebraska failed the Dislocated Worker category and Greater Omaha failed the Youth category. Vicki Leech stated that on the final Performance for PY 08 Fourth Quarter Greater Omaha did make performance in the Youth category. Bruce mentioned that Matt Hastings, Department of Education, FutureForce, gave a presentation on Perkins IV Funds.

He reviewed the Annual Report with the Board, explained the Customer Satisfaction Report for the benefit of the new members and asked Joan Modrell if there was any additional information on the Local Area Monitoring Update Report.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Updates from Local Workforce Investment Boards

Greater Nebraska Local Area

Dan Mauk reported for the Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Board. The Greater Nebraska CEOB, Youth Council and Committees met on October 21 and October 22, 2009 in Grand Island.

GNWIB Membership

Four members have resigned: Judy Amoo (Region 1), Mike Leisy (Region 1), Jill Schreck (Region 4) and Clyde Tyndall (Region 4). Three nominees were appointed to the GNWIB: Ron Joyce (Region 4), Kelly McNeil (Region 1) and Jessica James (Region 4). Eight members were reappointed to the GNWIB for a three year term.

ARRA Summer Youth Program

Greater Nebraska received 626 youth applications and enrolled 205 youth. The program developed 225 separate worksite locations and 356 work positions for youth. Youth participated in Work Experiences from June 1 through September 30 and earned \$7.25 per hour. Ten youth were hired on permanently by their worksites. Thirty youth were transitioned into the WIA year-round program. A number of youth pursued and obtained jobs on their own after the Summer Youth Program ended.

Grant Partnerships

There have been three requests for letters for commitment from the GNWIB. The grant requests were from: Southeast Community – Federal Department of Education Grant, Central Community College – Federal DOL Healthcare Grant and City of Lincoln – Federal DOL Healthcare Grant.

New Technology Letter of Intent

Nebraska Department of Labor is in the process of completing a request for proposal to replace the current WIA participant tracking and reporting system. The CEOB approved a letter of intent for Greater Nebraska to be included in this technology upgrade. By signing the letter of intent, the CEOB is agreeing to pay Greater Nebraska's share of the cost for the purchase and ongoing maintenance of the system.

Local Area Plan Modifications

The State has awarded Program 2009 Incentive, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building funds. The Greater Nebraska PY09 Local Plan will be modified to reflect acceptance of (1) Technical Assistance funds: \$15,595 and (2) Capacity Building funds: \$5,435.01.

PY08 Final Performance

Greater Nebraska met final Adult performance, but missed Dislocated Worker and Youth performance. Greater Nebraska will receive a sanction letter from the State for

missing Dislocated Worker performance two years in a row. A corrective action plan will be developed to address Dislocated Worker performance. Career Center staff are developing a service strategy to better meet the Literacy & Numeracy youth performance. Dan stated in regard to the Dislocated Worker program there is a disparity in earnings between Greater Nebraska and those working in metro areas. Greater Nebraska will continue to miss Dislocated Worker earnings unless a compromise can be worked out that addresses this.

Greater Omaha Local Area

Connie Eichhorn reported for the Greater Omaha Workforce Investment Board. Elections were held and Mike Abramson was re-elected as the Chair and Jim Hanson was elected as vice chair.

An Employer Outreach & Engagement Committee Learning event was held on September 16, 2009 at the Security National Bank. There were speakers on the state workforce and the economy in Tri County. Also there was a speaker from NDOL on Labor Market Information Tools. Forty-two people attended from a variety of businesses. The majority were HRAM members. HRAM credit was offered. This Committee plans to hold learning events three to five times a year.

Five Recent Grant Applications Supported by TCWIB:

- Customer Service training for insurance and financial industries. Goodwill Industries/Metro Community College/Omaha Chamber, three year grant through DOL-ETA funding.
- Certified Nursing Asst. & Phlebotomy/Associates in Nursing, Surgical Tech, etc. Nebraska Methodist College/Nebraska Methodist Hospital/Omaha Housing Authority, three year grant through DOL-ETA funding.
- Health Career Education – Health Information Management Systems, Nursing, Allied Health Metro Community College/NDOL, three year grant through DOL-ETA funding.
- Weatherization & Manufacturing Training of Green Products, NAF Multicultural Human Development Corporation/United Migrant Opportunity Services, two year grant through DOL Pathways out of Poverty (multi-state initiative).
- Pathways to Empower a Green Omaha—training & placement in targeted green industries/occupations, Omaha Economic Development Corporation/City of Omaha/Chamber/Metro/NDOL/Urban League/etc., two year grant through DOL Pathways out of Poverty

ARRA Summer Youth Program

Goodwill Industries enrolled 528 youth which were employed at 60 worksites. The entire \$1,660,386 was spent with about \$ 1.3 million spent on direct/youth salaries.

A New Contract for Summer Youth Transition called YAPP (Young Adult Pilot Program)

- To keep as many summer youth engaged as possible.
- Targets 22-24 year olds (most of which tested basic skills deficient).
- Transitioned to special Adult year-round program.

- NDOL contracted with Urban League for case management.
- NDOL contracted with Metro Community College for basic & job readiness skills.

Greater Lincoln Local Area

Jim Linderholm reported for the Greater Lincoln Workforce Investment Board. The 2009 Summer Youth Employment program was also very successful for Greater Lincoln. Two hundred four youth were placed at 80 worksites in Lincoln, Lancaster and Saunders Counties. Of these youth, 55% were older, out-of-school youth; 23% were high school dropouts; 39% minority; and 22% were youth with disabilities. We have 34 older out-of-school youth continuing on work experience as they move to transition to further education and training services. Summer Youth did really move Greater Lincoln in the right direction. To date, Lincoln has expended 82% of their allocation funds and they plan to expend 100% by the end of the calendar year.

Greater Lincoln did meet all their performance goals for PY2008 and are really pleased the Youth Program came in at 156%. Greater Lincoln did not meet their goals for the previous two years.

Work continues on the Regional Innovation Grant. AngelouEconomics of Austin, Texas is the firm under contract to perform the economic analysis of the 12 county RIG Areas (Lancaster and Saunders counties, along with Fillmore, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Seward, and York). The first report is now being distributed by the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development on the RIG Readers. A link to the report will be included in the upcoming RIG READER. The next steps in the project are further analysis of target industries and asset mapping.

Greater Lincoln has partnered recently in the development of two competitive grants under the federal Recovery Act funds; one is a local application and the other is a regional approach. They are a partner in a "Pathways Out of Poverty" grant application submitted last month by Southeast Community College. This grant targets residents of the designated Public user Micro-Data Area (PUMA). The purpose of the grant is to provide a program of education/training in basic green construction skills integrated with adult education, participant support and placement into entry level jobs or advanced education.

Building on the activities of the RIG, Greater Lincoln is the regional grant applicant for a Health Care Sector and Other High Growth & Emerging Industries opportunity. This grant targets unemployed, dislocated and incumbent workers in the 15 county Southeast Community college area. The objectives of the grant are to provide training and placement services to individuals to secure employment in the health care sector and to increase Southeast Community College's capacity to train in the health care field. Partners include Lincoln Urban Development Department; Greater Lincoln & Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Boards; Southeast Community College; University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Center for People in Need; BryanLGH Health Care System and the College of Nursing and Tabitha Health Care Services.

The Greater Lincoln Board is a co-sponsor of the 2010 Civil Rights Conference to be hosted by the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights. This conference is scheduled for

April 20 and 21, 2010 at The Cornhusker Marriott and will cover issues related to fair housing, fair employment, public accommodations and diversity.

The Board is welcoming several new members: Jessica James, WIA Director of the Indian Center; Ron Joyce, Unemployment Insurance Administrator at the Nebraska Department of Labor; Michelle Olson, Job Corps Project Director; and Jason Smith, Vice President of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development. The next Greater Lincoln Board meeting is December 2, 2009. They will be celebrating their tenth anniversary.

The question was asked if there was anything being said about stimulus dollars being continued into next year. Joan Modrell, Executive Director with the Office of Employment & Training, said there seems to be growing support for another summer youth program. Not sure if this would come in additional stimulus funds or through a budgetary process. With the continued high unemployment rate especially among youth, there are compelling reasons why Congress may continue a summer youth program for low income, at-risk youths.

Agenda Item #6 – New Business

State Energy Sector Grant –syNEgry Partnership. Joan Modrell, Executive Director for the Office of Employment & Training, explained how the Department of Labor was involved with two grants that centered on green job training. One was with the Peter Kiewit Institute in Omaha. Peter Kiewit agreed to be the grant applicant and work closely with career centers, local areas, University of Nebraska and community colleges. This grant was submitted the end of August.

Joan did a PowerPoint and handed out materials on the State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) Training Grant. She went through the material with the Board and talked about the Nebraska State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) Charter that had to be developed as an advisory committee for whatever projects and initiatives are started through this grant, establish Regional Project Teams and deliver training to incumbent workers, unemployed and underemployed workers, dislocated workers, and target populations (youth, veterans, etc.). Nebraska will focus on the following “green” industries: renewable wind, renewable biofuel and energy efficient buildings.

Labor Condition Trends – A snapshot

Shannon Ramaeker, Supervisor with Labor Market Information at the Department of Labor, gave a presentation on current trends. She did a PowerPoint with handouts on Nebraska Labor Condition Trends. The unemployment rates were released last week and Nebraska is at 4.9% now, down from 5.0% in August.) Nebraska has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. Shannon also distributed a handout called “Nebraska’s Unemployment in Brief.” Commissioner Lang said the unemployment trust fund is okay for now. She said that within the next few weeks, the rates will be published and there will be a fairly sizeable tax rate increase for 2010.

2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Update

Joan Modrell, Executive Director for the Office of Employment & Training, distributed a handout called “The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

Expenditure Update through September 30, 2009” and reviewed it with the Board. The handout breaks down information on the three local areas. WIA comes to us under three programs: Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker. Greater Nebraska received 25.5% of the overall funds that come into the state. Their biggest expenditure is on Youth. Tri-County Omaha received 42.5% of the overall funds. High expenditures were on their Youth program. Greater Lincoln received 13.2% of the overall funds. All three local areas are just getting started on expending ARRA Adult and Dislocated funds. This report came out of the Department of Labor Finance Department reported as 10-22-09.

Agenda Item #7 – Next Full NWIB Meeting

Our next full Board meeting is January 22, 2010. The Executive Committee is scheduled to meet on December 4, 2009.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Marshall Hill made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 11:10 a.m. Connie Eichhorn seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

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November 12, 2009